



Independent Electrical Contractors of New England, Inc.

**Testimony
Lisa Stevens
Executive Director
IEC-NE
Committee on Veteran's Affairs
February 28, 2012**

5297
**HB-5292 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE
SUBSTITUTION OF STATE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS WITH MILITARY
OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY TRAINING FOR VETERANS.**

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England (IEC-NE) sincerely appreciates the service of our young men and women serving in the military and supports efforts to assist veterans in obtaining employment in the skilled trades. We therefore support HB-5292, which creates a task force to study the substitution of state licensing requirements with military occupational specialty training for veterans.

To hasten the process of identifying appropriate substitutes for state licensing requirements, we recommend that this bill include a role for the licensing examining boards, which are comprised of union and non-union licensed tradespeople. Given the breadth of experience and knowledge of the volunteers serving on the various licensing boards, these individuals could greatly assist the task force in achieving its goal of helping our veterans find meaningful employment.

Also, please note that in 2010, the legislature adopted Public Act 10-105 (HB-5350), AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION CREDITS FOR MILITARY TRAINING, which requires state agencies or boards that issue licenses or certificates requiring professional training, schooling, or apprenticeship to provide credits or exemptions to applicants who received applicable training, schooling, or experience while serving in the armed forces. The act prohibits agencies from requiring applicants to repeat any substantively similar training or schooling required for licensure or certification. It also requires the state's public colleges and universities to grant veterans certain exemptions or credits consistent with (1) guidelines established by the American Council on Education, (2) the institutions' transfer credit policies, and (3) federal regulations.